THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) Rail India Technical & Economic Services will conduct preliminary feasibility study for Circular Railway in Madras.

(b) About two months from the date of commencement of survey.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) of the question.

Improvement in the irrigation potential

1011. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH:

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a report of the International Institute for Environment and Development has pointed out that improper irrigation has reduced crop yield on half of the world's irrigated land and rendered 25 million hectares of land unfit for production;

(b) if so, what is the assessment of this Institute with regard to non-utilisation or under utilisation of irrigated land in India as compared to Pakistan, Bangladesh, China and Japan; and

(c) what steps are being contemplated by Government in the light of this report to improve the irrigation potential or ensure its full utilisation in the country during the last year of the Sixth Plan and the Seventh Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) (a) and (b). No information is available on the report referred to by the Hon'ble Members.

(c) Does not arise.

Procurement of Wheat

1012. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the targets for wheat procurement during the current year in each of the wheat producing States;

(b) what is the quantum of procurement made so far;

(c) whether Government are aware that in the absence of purchases by State and Central Government machinery, a large number of farmers had to make distress sales of wheat at prices lower than the support prices fixed by Government; and

(d) if so, what is the quantity of wheat thus sold by the farmers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO): (a) Since procurement of wheat at support price takes place under voluntary offers by the farmers, no target of procurement of wheat is fixed.

(b) 91.7 lakh tonnes of wheat as reported on 21st July, 1984, has been procured during the current season.

(c) and (d) No report of distress sale of Fair Average Quality Wheat has been received.

Command Area Development Programme for 1984-86

1013. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved an outlay of Rs. 82 crores for Command Area Development programme for 1984-85 to increase the utilisation of irrigation potential already created and to optimise farm production from irrigated land;